April 2, 2003

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
for
Trinity County Department of Transportation
Kettenpom Creek Bridge Replacement
WDID No. 1A03050WNTR

Trinity County

On March 13, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Trinity County Department of Transportation requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the Kettenpom Creek Bridge Replacement located in Trinity County, California. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Kettenpom Creek in the North Fork Eel River Hydrologic Area No. 111.50.

The proposed project involves replacement of the existing single-span bridge. This bridge will be removed and used as a temporary detour during construction of the new bridge. Following completion of the new bridge, the temporary detour bridge will be removed. All areas disturbed by the temporary detour will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Construction of the replacement bridge will occur approximately 5 meters upstream from the existing bridge alignment. The new bridge will be a single-span bridge, 12.56 meter-long, consisting of a cast-in-place reinforced concrete flat slab, supported by 0.80 meter-thick concrete abutments and steel pile foundations. Abutment foundations will be steel H-pilings, driven into rock on each bank of the stream. Overall width of the new bridge will be 8.4 meters, providing two 3.36-meter travel lanes, and 0.61-meter shoulders and railings. No significant road approach profile changes are proposed.

Additional protection for bridge abutments will be provided by depositing ¼ ton of rock slope protection (RSP) as backfill material in front of each abutment. RSP material will be deposited such that the top of the material layer will match the existing sloped surface upstream and downstream of the wingwalls. The material layer will be terminated about 2 meters downslope from the face of each abutment. RSP will extend a short distance upstream and downstream of the bridge abutments, but will not wrap around the wingwalls.

Project construction will require performing work within the stream channel, along the south side of the existing bridge for bridge removal, bridge construction and detour construction. Clean gravel will be utilized for construction of the temporary detour bridge approaches located outside of Kettenpom Creek. No gravel or culverts will be placed within the ordinary high water mark.

This project will result in the permanent loss of 0.08 acre of wetlands. Approximately 0.09 acre of wetlands will be temporarily impacted by this project.

Compensatory mitigation has been outlined by Trinity County's Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. When loss of wetland features is unavoidable, the County will conduct mitigation at a ratio of 3:1 (per woody riparian plant). Replacement of permanently lost riparian wetland habitat will occur within the area previously occupied by the old bridge at a ratio of 3:1. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of BMPs for soil erosion, sedimentation, and accidental spills.

Trinity County Planning Department, as the lead agency, has determined that this project qualifies for categorical exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15301(c), Class 1, and Section 15302, Class 2.

Trinity County Department of Transportation's Kettenpom Bridge Replacement is scheduled to begin April 15, 2004 and will be complete by November 15, 2004. Instream work will take place between June 15 and November 15. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Roy O'Connor at (707) 576-2670, or at **oconr@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov** within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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